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AF PRESS GUIDANCE
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RWANDA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Q. What is the current situation in Rwanda?

REVIEW

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A. -- WE NO LONGER HAVE A U.S. GOVERNMENT

PRESENCE ON THE GROUND IN RWANDA AND

THEREFORE CANNOT OBTAIN FIRST-HAND REPORTS
ON THE SITUATION.

-- PRESS AND OTHER SECOND-HAND REPORTS

INDICATE THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION IN

RWANDA CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE. THERE ARE

REPORTS OF FIERCE FIGHTING IN KIGALI BETWEEN

THE RWANDAN MILITARY AND THE RPF. ETHNIC

VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN THE CITY.

-- THE FRENCH HAVE COMPLETED EVACUATION OF

THEIR NATIONALS FROM RWANDA, BUT MANY

BELGIANS REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY.

-- SOME MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM RWANDAN

GOVERNMENT HAVE APPARENTLY MOVED OUT OF

KIGALI, REPORTEDLY TO GITARAMA,

APPROXIMATELY 40 KILOMETERS FROM THE CAPITAL.

-- THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS ARE REPORTEDLY

DEPARTING THE CAPITAL FOR GITARAMA, BUTARE,

AND OTHER AREAS TO THE SOUTH. ALTHOUGH

SOME PRESS REPORTS SPEAK OF THOUSANDS OF
REFUGEES FLEEING INTO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES,

INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AGENCIES HAVE NOTED

LITTLE REFUGEE OUTFLOW

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Q. Have the rebels entered the capital?

A. -- REPORTS INDICATE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE REBEL FORCES FROM THE NORTH HAVE ENTERED THE CAPITAL. AT THE OUTSET OF THE CRISIS, A 600-PERSON REBEL CONTINGENT WAS ALREADY IN THE CAPITAL UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE ARUSHA PEACE ACCORD.

Q. Where is Ambassador Rawson?

A. -- HE IS CURRENTLY IN BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI, AND IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

Q. How many Americans were evacuated, and are any left in Rwanda?

- A. -- THE EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM RWANDA IS COMPLETE. 244 AMERICANS HAVE SAFELY LEFT THE COUNTRY.**
- TWO AMERICANS HAVE ELECTED TO REMAIN IN RWANDA. IN ADDITION, 11 AMERICANS ARE EMPLOYEES OF U.N. AGENCIES OR OF THE ICRC. THEY AWAIT THE EVACUATION PLANS OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS.**
- TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ALL AMERICANS REMAINING IN RWANDA ARE SAFE.**

Q. Americans are out; is the U.S. still concerned about Rwanda?

- A -- YES. WE CALL ON ALL PARTIES IN RWANDA TO STOP THE FIGHTING IMMEDIATELY. THEY NEED TO NEGOTIATE A TRUCE URGENTLY AND BEGIN DISCUSSIONS TOWARDS NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.**

Q. What is the U.N. doing?

A -- THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL IS MEETING AT 4:00 PM TO REVIEW THE UN's PRESENT AND FUTURE ROLE IN RWANDA.

-- THE UNAMIR FORCE COMMANDER AND THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN KIGALI ARE CONTINUING EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A MILITARY CEASE-FIRE BETWEEN THE FIGHTING GROUPS. THEY HAVE ALSO ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH SOME POLITICAL DIALOGUE.

-- THE UN FORCES IN KIGALI HAVE PROVIDED PROTECTION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO EVACUATE FOREIGN NATIONALS IN RWANDA. THEY ARE ALSO PROTECTING THOUSANDS OF RWANDANS IN THEIR COMPOUND. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NO MANDATE TO ENGAGE IN EFFORTS TO ENFORCE ORDER IN THE COUNTRY.

Q. If the U.N. can't save Rwanda, who can?

A. -- THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL DO ITS BEST TO ASSIST THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN RWANDA, BUT THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUCCESS OF THESE EFFORTS IS WITH THE RWANDANS THEMSELVES.

Q. What is the situation in Burundi?

- A. -- THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI REMAINS CALM. THE AIRPORT IN BUJUMBURA IS OPEN AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS ARE OPERATING.**
- THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BUJUMBURA REMAINS OPEN. BEFORE APRIL 6, THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 180 AMERICANS IN BURUNDI, FEWER THAN HALF OF WHOM WERE U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS.**
- ON APRIL 7, THE DAY AFTER THE DEATHS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF RWANDA AND BURUNDI, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ORDERED THE TEMPORARY DEPARTURE OF ALL U.S. GOVERNMENT DEPENDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL AND ISSUED A TRAVEL WARNING WHICH ADVISED PRIVATE U.S. CITIZENS TO DEPART BURUNDI.**

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